

REMARKS

The present Amendment cancels claims 1 and 6, and amends claims 3-5 and 8. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 3-5 and 8.

Claim for Foreign Priority (2nd Request)

Applicants filed a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, claiming the right for priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-212365. The certified copy of the priority document was filed on March 11, 2002, and a review of Public PAIR indicates that the Office has received the document (see page 2 of "Certified Copy of Foreign Priority Application," with a mail room date of March 11, 2002). However, although the Examiner acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority (see item 12 of the Office Action Summary mailed on July 5, 2006), the Examiner incorrectly indicated that the certified copy of the priority document has not been received. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, by checking boxes 12(a)(1) on the Office Action Summary.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 3 and 8 are deemed allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 3 to include the limitations of independent claim 1, and have amended claim 8 to include the limitations of independent claim 6. Furthermore, Applicants submit that claims 3 and 8, as now more clearly recited, are in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Examiner-Initiated Interview

In February 2007, the Examiner initiated an Interview to provide recommendations for bringing the present application into condition for allowance. It should be noted that the limitations of claims 1 and 6, which were added to claims 3 and 8 respectively, were further amended to include the proposed amendments discussed with the Examiner in the Examiner-Initiated Interview.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. As indicated above, claims 1 and 6 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection regarding claims 1 and 6 is rendered moot. Regarding the remaining claims 3 and 8, Applicants submit that claims 3 and 8, as now more clearly recited, are in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over ZipForm in view of U. S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0002566 to Gjraj and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,904,412 to Broadbent, et al. ("Broadbent"). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. As previously indicated, claims 1 and 6 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection regarding claims 1 and 6 is rendered moot.

Regarding claims 3 and 8, the Examiner indicated on page 8 of the Office Action that these claims contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, it appears that the Examiner's rejection of claims 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is a typographical error.

Regarding claims 4 and 5, Applicants have amended claims 4 and 5 to be dependent on allowable claim 3. Therefore, claims 4 and 5 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 3-5 and 8 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 3-5 and 8 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.41210X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donna K. Mason", written over a horizontal line.

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